

QUIETLY, COUNTRY MOURNS KENNEDY

Flowers Laid in Dallas and at
Grave — Family Attends
a Mass in New York

By CRAIG WOLFF

In Dallas where he was struck down, in Virginia where he is buried, in New York City and in Europe, relatives and friends, as well as those who knew John F. Kennedy only from afar, memorialized the former President on the 25th anniversary of his assassination. They did it not with speeches but with flowers and prayer and a quiet kind of reflection.

More than 400 people gathered at Dealey Plaza in Dallas, where the 35th President was mortally wounded on Nov. 22, 1963. Some stood, others sat, on the grassy knoll just off Elm Street where the President's motorcade was passing that day. At 12:30 P.M., about the hour of the shooting, 20 people held hands on the pavement, and traffic moved slowly around two bouquets that had been placed in the center of the street near the spot where the President was shot.

'We Still Love You'

One bouquet bore a sign that read, "We still miss you — Nov. 22." The other bore the message: "After 25 Years, We Still Love You John."

In New York City, Kennedy's widow, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, their children, John and Caroline, and other family members attended a private Mass at St. Thomas More Roman Catholic Church. The family, which has said it would prefer for people to commemorate Kennedy's birthday, May 29, rather than the day of his assassination, made no public appearances.

Senator Edward Kennedy, was in Runnymede, England, where he laid a white rose at the foot of a British memorial to his brother.

At Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia, Ethel Kennedy, dressed in black, arrived at her brother-in-law's grave at 8 A.M., and knelt silently at the eternal flame before moving to the grave of her husband, Robert F. Kennedy, who was slain in 1968.

Later in the day, the President's sister, Eunice Kennedy Shriver, appeared at the site, as did Evelyn Lincoln, Kennedy's personal secretary.

TV Retells the Story

By N. R. KLEINFELD

Special to The New York Times

Over the last two weeks television has marked the 25th anniversary of the assassination of President Kennedy in an wave of programming that is as much a reminder of how large a role television played in reporting the tragedy and its aftermath as it is a retelling of the event.

Retrospective segments have appeared on virtually all the morning and evening news broadcasts each day. In addition, more than 15 hours of programming were devoted to the assassination last week and an equal amount this week. The story has been approached from numerous angles: from profiles of the slain President to investigations into conspiracy theories to depictions of what life in 1963 was like.

The amount of coverage suggests how strongly television executives believe the event still grips the American population. "He was the first television President and the assassination marked television's almost mandatory presence in American households," said David Halberstam, who wrote, "The Best and The Brightest" about the origins and failure of American policy in Vietnam in the Kennedy and Johnson Administrations.

"I think there continues to be a quite surprising interest in him, and anniversaries allow us to define and take stock," Mr. Halberstam added.

Replaying History

One of the more novel approaches to commemoration coverage was conceived by cable television's Arts and Entertainment network. At 1:56 P.M. Eastern standard time, yesterday, the actual time when NBC interrupted its programming 25 years ago with news of the assassination in Dallas, the network replayed the first six hours of NBC's coverage of the tragedy. The Arts and Entertainment network is jointly owned by NBC, ABC and the Hearst Company.

In another slant, at 10 P.M. last night, NBC News scheduled a special narrated by its anchorman, Tom Brokaw, entitled, "JFK: That Day in November," in which a wide range of people talked about the country in 1963. "The program was trying to tell people what the world was doing that day," said Paul Greenberg, the executive producer. "A lot of people remembered what they were doing but not many people remember what the rest of the country was like."

A CBS News documentary, "Four Days in November," appeared Thursday night and condensed into two hours the 56 hours of news coverage from Dallas and Washington that followed the tragedy from the assassination to the burial.

Kennedy's News Conferences

On Monday night Channel 13 presented, "Thank You, Mr. President," an hour excerpts from President Kennedy's press conferences as a means of providing a brief history of his 33

months in office.

A considerable amount of the anniversary coverage was devoted to renewed examinations of the theories behind the assassination. For instance, Channel 11 last night began the first of a two-part show, "On Trial: Lee Harvey Oswald." It is an update of a British production that was presented on Showtime in 1986. Geraldo Rivera replaces Edwin Newman as the narrator.

The coverage may have put television itself in some context. As Mr. Halberstam observed, "In a year in which television has been appalling, the coverage has been a reminder of how good television could be."

25 Years After His Assassination, The Nation Honors President Kennedy

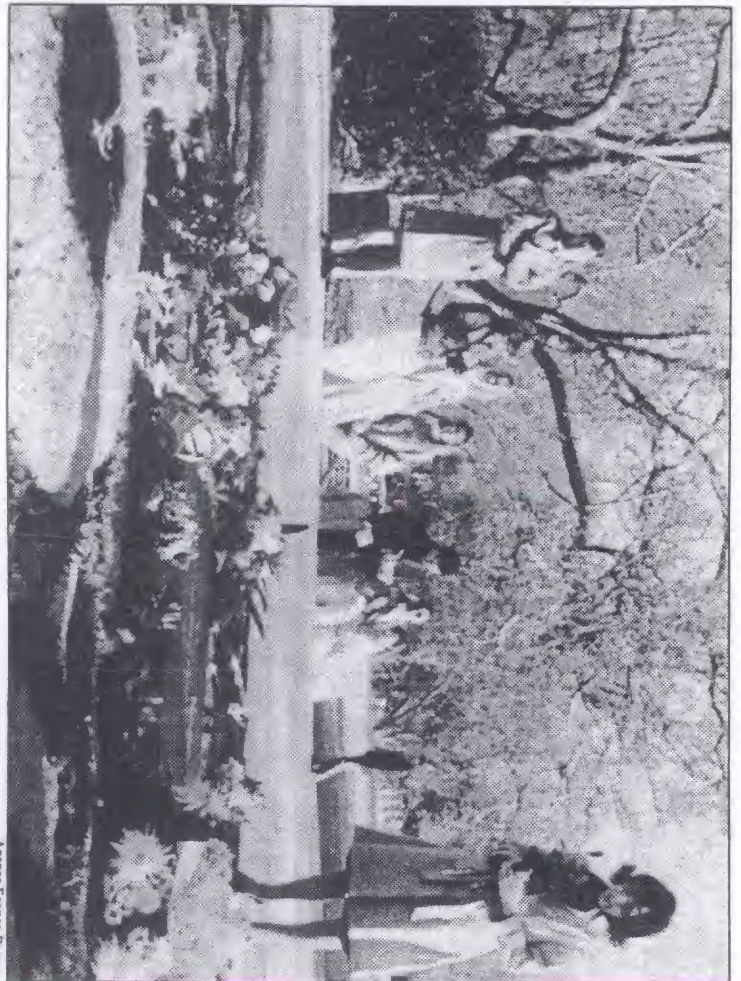
Among the members of John F. Kennedy's family who visited his grave at Arlington National Cemetery yesterday were his sister, Eunice Kennedy Shriver, who was accompanied by her husband, Sargent Shriver, and Kennedy's personal secretary, Evelyn Lincoln.

Senator Edward M. Kennedy, who was in Runnymede, England, laid a white rose at the foot of a British monument to his brother.

In New York City, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis and her son, John, and daughter, Caroline, and other family members attended a private Mass at St. Thomas More Roman Catholic Church.



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